

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-19 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended; claim 8 has been canceled; and claims 18-19 have been added. No new matter has been added.

§102 Rejection of Claims 1-15

In Section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koyama *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010; hereinafter referred to as “Koyama”).

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that “a DVD video disc ... conventionally available has an area for a jacket picture as well as an area for video contents data. On the other hand, with a CD ... and a CD extra disc, audio data and video data can be recorded thereon. Thus a reproducing apparatus for a DVD video disc, a CD video disc, and/or a CD extra disc can display one still picture recorded on a disc on a displaying unit.” Further, “a disc changer having many disc slots is known. With the disc changer, the user can select one of discs accommodated in the disc slots and causes the disc changer to reproduce contents data from the selected disc. With the disc changer, a disc is selected by directly designating a slot number corresponding to a desired disc.” *Specification, page 1, lines 9 to 24.* “However, when the user directly designates his or her desired disc, since the amount of information provided to the user is insufficient, it is difficult for him or her to select his or her desired disc from many discs. [W]hen the user can manage the discs accommodated in the disc changer and search his or

her desired disc therefrom using picture information correlated with the discs, it is expected to improve the visibility and operability of the disc changer. To accomplish [this], it is necessary to simultaneously display a plurality of index still pictures such as jacket pictures on the screen of the displaying unit. *Specification, page 2, lines 1 to 15.* When picture contents are reproduced from optical discs having different formats, their picture frame sizes are different.” Moreover, “[e]ven if the types of optical discs are the same, their picture frame sizes vary corresponding to television systems.” *Specification, page 2, lines 20 to 24.*

To address the problem stated above, embodiments of the present invention provide apparatus and methods “that allow a plurality of index pictures to be simultaneously displayed, the displayed index pictures to be operated without a deterioration of the picture quality, index pictures of different size to be simultaneously displayed, and the operations of displaying index pictures to be simplified.” *Specification, page 3, lines 5 to 10.*

For example, apparatus claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

A reproducing apparatus for receiving contents data from a record medium or a transmission, the reproducing apparatus comprising:

contents data receiving means for receiving different contents data recorded on different record media respectively;

index picture generating means for retrieving a picture frame from the contents data, and generating an index picture, wherein the picture frame size of the index picture is smaller than the picture frame size of the contents data;

selecting means for selecting an output type of the index picture for a display device;

picture processing means for processing the index picture data according to the output type selected by said selecting means; and

display means for displaying on the display device the index picture formed by said picture processing means;

wherein index pictures generated from different contents data which have different respective formats and are received from different record media respectively can be displayed together in respective picture frames having the same picture frame size, and

wherein record medium information is also displayed corresponding to index pictures.

(emphasis added)

Accordingly, one aspect of claim 1 comprises at least a display means for displaying on the display device the index picture formed by the picture processing means, wherein index pictures generated from different contents data which have different respective formats and are received from different record media respectively can be displayed together in respective picture frames having the same picture frame size, and wherein record medium information is also displayed corresponding to index pictures. The Specification discloses that “a genre/disc type information displaying area 115 [is] displayed corresponding to slot numbers,” and that “[t]he genre/disc type information displaying area 115 is composed of a genre displaying area (as an upper part) and a disc type displaying area (as a lower area).” *Specification, page 15, lines 9 to 15.* (emphasis added) *See also Fig. 4.* Further, “text information, genre information, and disc type information can be displayed for each slot number.” *Specification page 16, lines 16 to 18.* (emphasis added)

In contrast, Koyama does not teach or suggest the use of record medium information or association of record medium information with pictures. Because Koyama does not disclose this limitation, Koyama therefore fails to address all the limitations of claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 1 should be allowable over Koyama. Further,

since independent claim 9 closely parallels claim 1 and recites similar limitations as recited therein, claim 9 should also be allowable over Koyama. Furthermore, since claims 2-7 and 10-15 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, claims 2-7 and 10-15 should also be allowable over Koyama. Claim 8 has been canceled by this amendment.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-15 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 16-17

In Section 5 of the Office Action, claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama in view of Hoshi (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,102).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding independent claims 1 and 9, and since claims 16 and 17 depend respectively from claims 1 and 9, claims 16 and 17 should also be allowable over Koyama. Moreover, Hoshi was cited merely for disclosing that the information to be displayed has various display modes that can be selected, such as NTSC/PAL. Therefore, since claims 16 and 17 should be allowable over Koyama as discussed above, Koyama and Hoshi, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 16 and 17.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16 and 17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

New Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 are newly presented by this amendment and depend from independent claim 1. Based on the foregoing discussion regarding independent claim 1, and since claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 1, claims 18 and 19 should also be allowable over the cited prior art reference.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and the allowance of this application with claims 1-7 and 9-19 are respectfully solicited.

With regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
Samuel S. Lee, Reg. No. 42,791 for
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800